

Applicant: Archer et al.
Application Serial No.: 10/779,485
Filing Date: February 13, 2004
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REMARKS

The application has been amended. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Entry of this and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-9, and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,147,304 to Doherty in view of U.S. Patent No. D462,664 to Roesch et al. (hereinafter "Roesch"). This determination is respectfully traversed.

Applicant's position with respect to the claims of the present application in view of the combination of Doherty and Roesch is set forth extensively in a response to the prior Office Action.

In responding to Applicant's arguments that the claims of the present application are patentable over the combination of Doherty and Roesch, the Examiner states that the "centerline" is not clearly defined in the claims. The Examiner goes on to say that the centerline may be interpreted as horizontal or vertical.

In preparing the present response, Applicant contacted Examiner Harris to discuss his position. The Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Harris for the courtesies which were extended in a telephone interview which was conducted regarding this application.

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Applicant agreed to amend independent claims 1 and 11 for the purposes of clarity, so as to define that the centerline set forth in claims is a vertical centerline with respect to the walls of the outlet box. However, in reviewing claims 1 and 11, it is noted that the claims do not define the box with respect to horizontal or vertical orientation. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 have been amended to clearly recite that the side walls are elongate and that mounting axes defined with respect to the side walls are also elongate and generally parallel thereto. Furthermore, the centerline set forth in claims 1 and 11 is defined so that it extends along the side wall thereby clearly setting forth that the centerline is coextensive with the side wall rather than intersecting the side wall.

Having defined the invention in this manner, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention is patentably distinct over the combination of Roesch and Doherty. As set forth previously, the Doherty reference fails to show first and second mounting axes being equidistant from a centerline of one of the side walls. In this regard Roesch is similarly deficient as it fails to disclose that the mounting axes are equidistant from a centerline of any of the side walls.

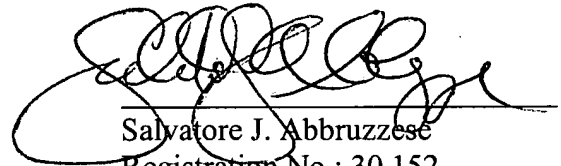
Accordingly, having set forth distinctions between the claims of the present invention and the cited combination and having more clearly defined the terminology used in the claims of the present invention, it is respectfully submitted that the application, including claims 1-17 and 19, is in condition for allowance. Favorable action thereon is respectfully solicited.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 08-2461. Such authorization includes authorization to charge fees for extensions of time, if any, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 and also should be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in this reply or any future reply pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this response, the undersigned would be pleased to address them by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,



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